

ONESIPHORUS- HE OFT REFRESHED ME

2 Tim 1:15-18

Romans hostile to Christians.

Thousands of Christians being executed

Paul's fellow Christians not anxious to openly associate with him. killed.

Paul facing impending death.

2 Timothy 1:15 *Timothy*: Apostle's representative in Ephesus

Asia: Proconsular Asia

Turned away from me: deserted, repudiated, abandoned, bailed out, split the scene.

Possibly doctrinal reason

Probably couldn't handle threat of persecution.

Phygellus and Hermogenes. Outspoken men.

Ringleaders of apostacy

2 Timothy 1:16 *Onesiphorus*: A bringer of profit

Business man/householder of Iconium--showed hospitality to Paul

Wife: Lectra.

Martyred

Refreshed: to cool again, cool off, cause to breath more easily.

By friendship, encouragement, fellowship, presence.

By bringing news concerning churches and individuals.

By bringing food, drink, literature.

Ie. Jonathan to David

Ever notice: there are certain people you love to be around because always feel refreshed when with them?

Opposite. Certain people when around them seem to depress and drain you.

Ie. Gordon MacDonald... *there were those who constantly caused me to reach for higher plateaus of growth, while there were others who left me, as it were, grasping for air. The former I pursued, the latter I fled....*

People that affect one's spiritual passion:

1. VRP's Very resourceful people.

Ignite passion.

3+ contribution

2. VIP's. Very important people.

Share passion.

2+ contribution

They sense our hurts and needs, delight in our successes and weep with us when we are disappointed. They offer us constructive criticism.

3. VTP's Very Trainable people.

Catch passion.

1+ contribution

4. VNP's Very nice people.

Enjoy passion.

0+ contribution

5. VDP's. Very draining people.

Sap passion.

Negative contribution

VDP's can become VTP's...VIP's...VRP's.

Ie. Paul – John Mark

Ie. Judas Iscariot – VDP

I have watched may lay people quit responsibilities and even become embittered over church activity, because no one taught them how to protect themselves from very draining people.

... and was not ashamed of my chain: Onesiphorus not deterred from visiting Paul in prison.

Not a Meriwether friend

Proverbs 17:17; 18:24

Mercy: pity, grace in action

May they experience God's favor and power and strength to do what is right because of the actions of Onesiphorus.

2 Timothy 1:17 Onesiphorus had hard time finding Paul.

✚ Never been in Rome

✚ Confusion in city.

✚ Christians not know of whereabouts of Paul.

✚ Number of Christians reduced.

When there's a will then there's a way.

When really care about someone obstacles become stepping stones.

Excuse: skin of a reason stuffed with a lie.

2 Timothy 1:18 *That day:* Judgment Seat of Christ. Matthew 25:34 -36

...ministered unto me at Ephesus...

Onesiphorus had good track record.

Gutzke: *He stuck by me, and he came to make sure that I had what I needed. He would come to strengthen me. He was on my side. Even though they had me in jail, and I was being treated like a criminal, that man came and stood by me. He was not ashamed of my chain. But when he was in Rome he sought me out very*

diligently and found me. The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day." I would love to find the mercy of the Lord in that day!

So What?

Onesiphorus

1. **Stood for God's man.** Will you?
2. **Diligently sought for Paul.** took time and effort to help...relentless. Do you?
3. **He was noticed:** God notices shirkers and supporters. Which are you?
Negative: *Phygellus and Hermogenes.*
Positive: *Onesiphorus.*
4. **He ministered consistently.** Do you?
5. **He was an encourager.** VRP...Are you?

When people sit back and think reminisce about the good ole days... people who have been a blessing to them.... Curse to them.... How do they think of you?